



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Advisory

Partners to Launch Volunteers in Policing Program

WPD Chief Gordon Ramsay, Council Member Cindy Claycomb, Lt. Joe Kennedy and Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association President Corey Reed will meet under the Douglas Avenue bridge at 1:30, Aug. 21 to officially launch a program that will use volunteers to patrol parts of Wichita's riverbank area as well as Riverside Park.

Under the Volunteers in Policing program, pairs of volunteers from the CPAAA will be using golf carts to patrol along the Arkansas River from 13th Street south to Lincoln Street during daytime hours at various times throughout the week.

The program will launch with 11 volunteers, but more are expected to be trained in the near future. Some of the volunteers will be on-hand at the press conference to speak with reporters.

"Wichita's riverbank area is a vibrant and growing part of our city," said Wichita Police Chief Gordon Ramsay. "These volunteers will be instrumental in providing extra support in helping keep our community safe."

The volunteer program is mirrored after the Greenbelt Safety Team project in Boise, Idaho. There, the program began after three homicides along the Boise River over three-year period. Volunteers stepped in to patrol the area in efforts to keep citizens safe.

In 2018, Wichita City Council members visited Boise and saw the many benefits the program could bring to Wichita.

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